

**United Republic of Tanzania**  
**TANZANIA LIVESTOCK RESEARCH INSTITUTE**



**THE ROLE OF CHICKEN IN THE TANZANIAN ECONOMY  
AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT: AN  
OVERVIEW**

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**First ACGG Tanzania Innovation Platform Meeting**  
**Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**  
**13-14 July 2015**



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# Introduction

The poultry industry in Tanzania comprises of two production systems

## 1. The traditional/ family poultry or the local chicken

- Poultry population - 37 million
- 90% of poultry in Tanzania are chickens.

## 2. The commercial poultry systems

- 32 million are commercial chickens
- kept in the urban and peri-urban areas for egg and meat production.

# Traditional / Local chickens:

Kept by over 72% of the rural households

- ❑ **MOSTLY FREE RANGE ,**
- ❑ **Semi Intensive rare especially during cropping season**
- ❑ The flock size per household: from 5 to 20 with an average of 12 chickens.
- ❑ Night shelters provided;
- ❑ Mostly kept/ share the same living quarters and kitchens of the farmer or owner.



# Genetic diversity : Local chicken ecotypes



Kishingo



Kisunsu



Mtewa



Sasamala



Kuchi



Bukini



# Traditional husbandry :

Free range

- Low input

Low biosecurity

Poor housing

Indadequate feeding

Unbalanced diets

Low output

Low productivity

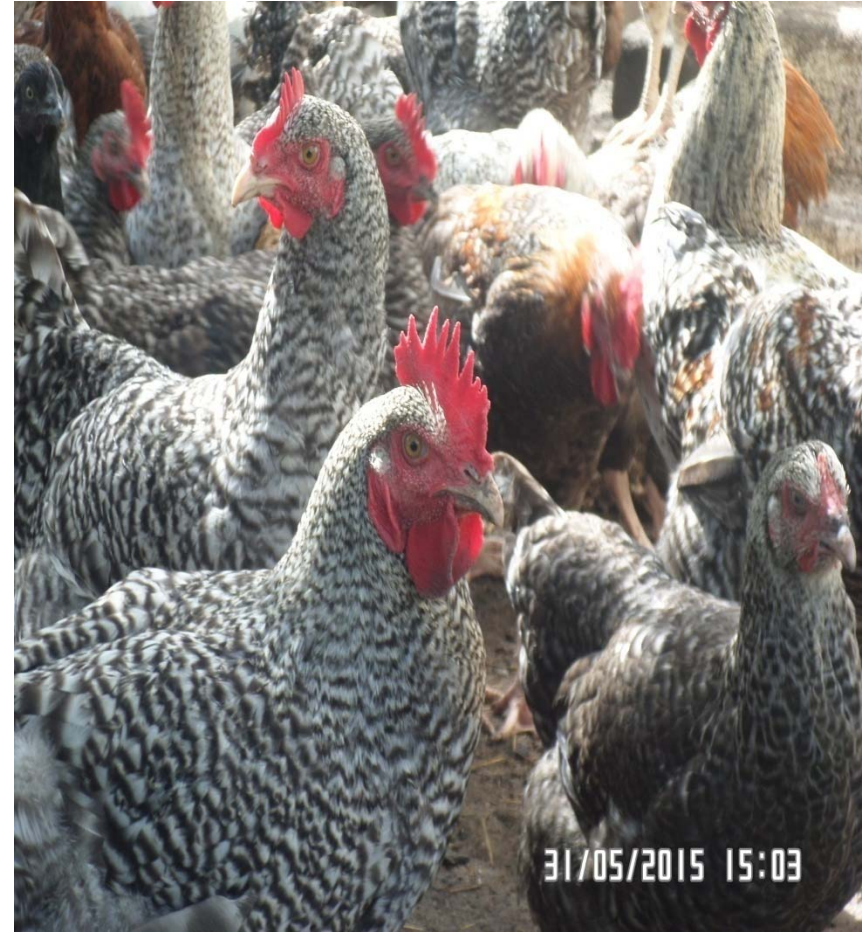


Traditional / local chickens are associated with low productivity

Characteristic	Statistics
Small body size	reaching an adult weight of 1.5 to 1.9kg at an age of 24 weeks or more
Small egg size	weighs 35 to 45 grams
Age at first egg varies	from 24 to 34 weeks
Small egg numbers	40 to 60 eggs per year in three to four clutches



# Traditional vs commercial chickens





# Commercial chicken Production



**Intensive practice**

**housing, husbandry and biosecurity**

**Numbers**

**500 - 100,000 chickens**

**Generally**

**business oriented**

**commercial feeds, vaccinate**





# **Role of chickens in the household and national economy**

## **❖ Traditional / Local chickens have several Socio economic roles**

- ✓ **nutrition** - the egg and meat as a source of rich animal protein
- ✓ **Food security**, can exchange for grains when there is shortage in a household
- ✓ **Source of households income**- money for needs; school uniforms, medical treatments, sugar and salt
- ✓ **Religious and ritual ceremonies.**



## **Role of chickens in the household and national economy .....**

- Agriculture as a whole contributes 30% to the national GDP
- The livestock sector contributes 18% of Agricultural GDP and 4.7% of national GDP
- Chickens contribute 16% of livestock GDP, 3% of agricultural GDP and 1% of national GDP.
- Thus the contribution of chicken to the national economy is significant.



## **Role of chickens in the economy.....**

- In 2013, the total chicken meat produced was 87,408 tons which are 87,408,000 kg.
- According to the 2006/2007 statistics, the total number eggs produced was 910 million. Out of these eggs 367,955,296 were from local chickens.
- About 68% of all eggs produced by local chickens are sold, that is 250,209,600 eggs, which is very significant to the economy of for rural households.



## **Role of chickens in the economy.....**

- The current price of 1kg chicken meat is about Shs. 10,000/= on the average while eggs are sold at Shs. 400 per egg or Shs. 12,000/= per tray of 12 eggs.
- Therefore the yearly monetary value of chicken meat produced in Tanzania is over Shs. 874 billion while the value of eggs is Shs. 364 billion.
- Total yearly value of chickens and eggs is 1,242 billion.





## **Role of chickens in the economy.....**

- If this income is compared to this year's total Ministerial budget (2015/2016) amounting to Shs. 68,810,404,000/= of which Shs. 46,158,922,000 is for operational expenses and Shs. 22,651,482,000/= for development, the sector contribute about 2 percent.
- Assuming that 68% of the chicken produce is sold, then the direct income from chicken meat and eggs is Shs. 841.8 billion. However, on the expected monetary contribution from chicken industry is expected to be much higher if all nodes along value chain are considered (Indirect contribution).

## Summary : Other socio-economic roles



- Employment -the hospitality industry, restaurants, and hotels as well as for those involve in animal feed manufacturing, preparation of chicken biologicals/ pharmaceuticals sector.
- Reduced the import bill which could have been used to import both chicken meat and eggs for direct consumptions.

# Challenges in the chicken industry

## 1. *Chicken loss:*

- The losses are caused by chicken diseases (NCD, coccidiosis, colibacillosis and salmonellosis, ectoparasites, causing over 50% to 100% mortality
- Malnutrition and predation due to poor husbandry practices and poor biosecurity.
- Among commercial chickens, failure to apply proper and regular vaccination regimes as well as regular treatments, especially against coccidiosis and worms are the major reasons for the losses.





# Challenges .....

## 2. Low productivity

- (a) In local chickens low productivity - due to the low genetic potential = haphazard and non selective breeding.
- It is also caused by poor feeding - scavengeable feeds with low nutrients (protein and energy) and they are rarely fed and if so it is the kitchen left overs, broken grain and harvest left overs.

- (b) Low productivity among commercial flocks:
  - sub-optimal husbandry practices;
- unbalanced, inadequate feeds



# Challenges .....

- Production of feeds is not well regulated hence the quality of chicken feeds is uncertain and may vary between batches as well as among manufactures
- The size of broilers sold is generally small and hardly reach 1 kg in weight at 8 weeks
- Egg production is normally around 60% to 70% which is low by international standards of 80% to 90% egg production.





# Challenges .....

## 3. High prices of the chicken and eggs:

- The price of chicken meat per kg in Tanzania is higher than 1kg of beef
- Middle class in urban areas can afford to regularly eat chicken meat.
- The price of eggs is high and unaffordable by many people



# Challenges .....

## 4. Inadequate market systems

- Lack of reliable market information to rural poultry producers and difficult urban markets access due to poor infrastructure
- Rural poultry farmers can't make informed pricing decisions - this negatively affect their incomes from the poultry business.





# Opportunities

1. A ready market for the chicken and products - Chicken meat and eggs are in high demand especially in the urban and peri-urban areas
  - **Prices for the chicken and products must be reduced and be lower than beef, the main competitor**
2. Room for increased production
  - addressing challenges, Improve extension services,
  - training of farmers on optimal chicken husbandry for both the commercial farmers and local chicken keepers
  - Extension packages must address the constraints listed under challenges – reduce chicken losses
  - Export of chicken and products, establishing processing industry for the chicken and products, more income / tax, poverty reduction



# CONCLUSION

- **Chickens play substantial roles in the household and national economy**
- For the traditional poultry/chicken industry to move to large-scale commercial production, it will require institutional support systems including:
  - efficient extension services
  - stronger regulatory capacity at the central and council levels to ensure the quality of poultry inputs and products entering the market
  - adequate capacity for disease control including epidemic preparedness;
  - increased investment in new technologies and promotion of new knowledge use to drive scales;
  - easy access to liquidity to stimulate private sector investment; and
  - supportive market systems to enable more profitable sales chickens and increase income from the poultry enterprise